

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly; Co-chair; dePara, Paoletto, Brantley, Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHER(s): Council President McCarthy

CITY ATTORNEY: M. Anastasi

Co-chair Brannelly called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes of December 17, 2012 (Special Meeting).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBR VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

20-12 Proposed Approval of a State Lobbying Agreement

Item added from the floor during City Council Meeting January 7, 2013

Re: State Lobbying Agreement

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADD ITEM 20-12 PROPOSAL
FOR STATE LOBBYING AGREEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Co-chair Brannelly reviewed The Term of Contract for the cost of services would be in effect for one year from January 2013 through June 30, 2013. The contract may be extended twice for two (2) consecutive one (1) fiscal year terms commencing July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014 by agreement between the Consultant and the City acting by and through the Mayor. The cost for the initial term will be \$55,000 total, payable in five (5) installments of \$11,000 each due at the conclusion of each month from February, 2013 through June 2013. She noted that the prior contract expired on July 30, 2012 and the new contract will be an initial term of six months.

She clarified that no monies would be paid towards the lobbying contract unless the money has been budgeted for.

Council member Brantley asked if the lobbying agreement pertained to the state. Co-chair Brannelly stated that she hoped a lobbyist could attend the meeting tonight. She said all their questions wouldn't be answered tonight; however, a special meeting will be scheduled next week to address the questions.

City Attorney Anastasi stated that Kevin Reynolds and Tyrone McClain were scheduled to meet the evening of January 22, 2013 to discuss this item; however, he said they could probably change the date and meet next week (Tuesday, January 15) to address all the questions. He clarified that there shouldn't be a vote tonight until they recess at the next meeting.

Council member dePara asked where the funds for this proposal were set aside. Attorney Anastasi said the source of the funding wasn't known; however, the matter generally comes up for discussion during budget time. Council President McCarthy added that there's a line item for lobbying in the budget. He said it consisted of a combined line of both state and federal. He stated that if the line item is for \$100k, it would include the state and federal. Attorney Anastasi stated they could still only spend \$55k. He further clarified that they will not be retaining a federal lobbyist. He said they can't go above \$55k without amending the contract and the Mayor reviewing it.

Council member dePara asked the amount of the pre-approved expenses. Attorney Anastasi replied that any charge will be pre-approved. And if it's not budgeted, it won't be available.

Attorney Anastasi stated that he would do some research to obtain an estimate of a state lobbyist vs. a federal lobbyist and report back to the committee next week.

Co-chair Brannelly asked who would approve the lobbyist. Attorney Anastasi said that Tyrone McClain would as the legislator for the Director of the City.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if any fees would be allotted if any special session meetings are called.

Attorney Anastasi reviewed the duration of the agreement as it was outlined in the proposal. He said they are obligated to represent the city and the terms of the contract would be for the period commencing January 1, 2013 and ending on June 30, 2013.

Council member Brantley asked who the previous lobbying firm was. Attorney Anastasi said the previous firm was Gaffney, Bennett & Associates.

Council member Brantley asked what Tyrone McClain's title was. Attorney Anastasi said his title was Director of Legislative Affairs.

Co-chair Brannelly recalled the Tyrone indicated that he would have goals for the upcoming year outlined as to what they can expect from the lobbyist.

Attorney Anastasi commented that they always had an in-house person act as the liaison to the lobbyist.

Council member Brantley questioned if any minority firms responded to the lobbyist RFP. Attorney Anastasi stated that there were a limited number of firms in the area that conduct lobbying. Council President McCarthy added that it was his point of view that there are (169) different towns and cities are fighting for dollars. He commented that any advantage they could get is beneficial to them to know that there are people in Hartford who can scramble for money for the city.

He further questioned what would happen if they decided to defund lobbying. He suggested that the city council needed to have more control over defunding the lobbyist if they found it appropriate. Attorney Anastasi stated that the comment as well as other concerns of the committee would be reflected in the contract as recommended.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- City Attorney Anastasi stated that he would notify Attorney Reynolds to request that he attend the recessed meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

12-12 Proposed Approval of a Consultant for the Bridgeport Public
Library Facilities Master Planning Services.

Tom Erachetti? stated he was there to represent the Building Committee Board. He gave some background information that the library board should be looking at where services will be provided. He said the Black Rock branch was the most recently expanded location and services that are delivered there are adequate. However, he stated that on the east side of Bridgeport, services aren't adequate and they have seen two (2) locations closed. He explained that before any expansion can occur, they thought they would look at state-of-the-art library services to address the most efficient way to provide services in the 21st century. He said that since things are moving more towards electronic services, they will look at the diverse population they are dealing with to determine how to better serve the residents. He gave the example that services may be delivered similar to how Red Box Rentals operates. He stated that the library is leased on the east side and the city owns the property.

He went on to say that they interviewed three (3) different firms for consideration of a consultant on the project and one (1) firm in particular was preferred.

Council member dePara asked where the funds would come from for the project. Mr. Errichetti said the funds were approved two years ago for bonding and there are also surplus funds in the operating budget that can be used.

Council member Brantley asked how much funding they were looking at. Mr. Errichetti said the amount was between \$100k-\$150k to conduct the studies.

Council member dePara recalled that the capital plan allocated \$200k for a feasibility study for the east side and east end during fiscal year ending 2011.

Mr. Errichetti said he would prefer to use the bonding money that was approved two years ago; otherwise, the surplus fund could be used.

Council member Brannelly stated that the RFP selection packets that they had, didn't include what was presented by each firm that was interviewed.

Council member Brantley questioned what the board liked about the preferred firm. Mr. Errichetti said they were forward looking to library services, with emphasis on urban libraries.

Council President McCarthy asked about minority firms and whether or not there was any effort to seek a minority firm for the project. Mr. Errichetti explained they went

through city purchasing, but he wasn't sure if any minority firms were sought. He noted that eleven(11) firms applied.

Council President McCarthy stated that for the future, the RFP advertisement should be posted in locations that are accessible for everyone to be informed.

Co-chair Brannelly questioned what they were entirely approving. She commented that the rate the firm planned on charging should be part of their consideration. Mr. Errichetti said he was told the board could only consider and look at a firm's qualifications and not consider the fee. He clarified the name of the preferred firm is: Robert A.M. Stern Architects *in association with* Godfrey Associates. He noted that they previously combined their efforts on projects.

Co-chair Brannelly asked if the additional packet of information should have been received. Mr. Errichetti said not as far as he knew. Co-chair Brannelly further questioned if they received the entire packet of information.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the matter was time sensitive, noting the questions that the committee members had. She said she wanted to ensure what the funding source was and other vital information. She said she would like to hear from Tom Sherwood.

Mr. Errichetti relayed that there were sufficient funds in the library budget. However, there was some question from Tom Sherwood whether or not the funds have been allocated in the capital budget.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia recalled that in the past, the community wanted to see shared library serves at designated schools. Mr. Errichetti said there have been discussions through the board and the question was posed how they could best deliver library services for the entire community.

Council member Brantley commented that it will be important that the library services be available for all people that live on the east end and east side. She recalled when services were available in the past, people loved it and they made use of them often.

Council member dePara requested the following information be provided to the committee: a) background information for the winning RFP firm b) details regarding the fee structure c) an estimate of what the proposal will cost – *it was noted that ten (10) copies should be submitted at the next meeting.*

Co-chair Brannelly added the following requests:

- Library Director should be present at the next meeting
- Copies of the selected firm's response to the RFP

- Fee structure

Co-chair Brannelly requested a motion to table the item until Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RECESSED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO RECESS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services